GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:462
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
AMENDMENTS IN INDIAN POST OFFICE ACT
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman;Subbarayan Shri K.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has steadily lost business to courier companies;

(b) if so, the loss incurred during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has addressed the major issues like monopoly, tariff of services, extent of Universal Obligation Coverage etc. taking into account the latest development in the postal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 accordingly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 462 FOR 17TH MAY, 2006 REGARDING AMENDMENTS IN INDIAN POST OFFICE ACT, 1898.

(a) & (b) The revenue of the Postal Department in respect of the postal business has been steadily increasing:

REVENUE AS ACTUAL (Rupees in Crores)

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Sale of Stamps	989.90	981.04	894.67	798.66
Postage realized in cash	828.70	1017.35	1155.92	1297.11
Total	1818.60	1998.39	2050.59	2095.77

However, since there is no record of business done by the courier companies available in the Department of Posts, the information required in the question is not available with the Postal Department. Since courier companies are not registered, no information regarding their business is available with the Department of Posts.

(c) & (d) the Department of Posts has constantly been addressing the issues like its exclusive privilege of conveying letter by post from place to place, performing all incidental service, receiving, collecting, sending, dispatching and delivering of letters with some exceptions as per section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, the tariff for services, its universal service obligation etc. regularly. It takes into account the latest developments in the postal sector.

(e) & (f) The Department of Posts wants to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 to reflect the recent developments in the field of postal communications and information technology and to meet the expectations of consumers of postal services and products. The Department of Posts has drafted an amendment Bill and its draft proposals has been placed in the public domain

`http//:www.Indiapost.gov.in` from 19.4.2006 for obtaining the views and comments of the public and the concerned parties upto 10.5.2006. Th Department of Posts is now examining the various views and suggestions received.